

Appl. No. 10/028,900
Reply to Office action of 10/04/2004

Attorney Docket No. WH-101

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 was amended to further include in the database a probability distribution of the time required for the parties that may attend more than one meeting to travel between candidate meeting locations.

Original claim 20 was canceled

Original Claims 2-19, 21-29 remain unchanged.

New claims 30-32 were added. Independent claims 30 and 31 include all the limitations of the original base claim 1 and of claims 21 and 22, respectively. New claim 32 specifies the optimization mechanism employed to generate the proposed schedule of claim 25.

The Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chaco (US Patent No. 6,009,333). The Examiner also stated that the specific implementations of claims 20-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 was amended to include all the limitations of the base claim 1 and the additional limitation of claim 20, i.e., the database further storing "the probability distribution of the time required for the parties that may attend more than one meeting to travel between candidate meeting locations". New claims 30 and 31 include all the limitations of the base claim 1 and the additional limitations of claims 21 and 22, respectively. Accordingly it is believed that amended claim 1 and new claims 30, 31 should now be patentably distinguishable from the Chaco patent. Claims 2-19 22-29 and new claim 32 depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1 and since claim 1 is patentable distinguishable from the prior art they should also be patentably distinguishable from the prior art of record.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested and allowance of all claims at an early date is solicited.

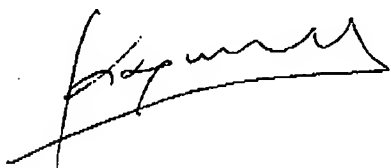
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One depended claims of the 29 originally submitted claims was cancelled and three new claims were added. A check for \$50.00 dollars is enclosed as the additional two claims fee.

If this response is found to be incomplete, or if a telephone conference would otherwise be helpful, please call the undersigned at 617-558-5389

Respectfully submitted,



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Date of Deposit 12/15/2004

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR 1.10 that this correspondence is being faxed on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450